

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3841, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE END OF SLAVERY

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 195) recognizing the end of slavery in the United States, and the true day of independence for African-Americans, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object, I rise to explain the purpose of this legislation.

(Miss COLLINS of Michigan asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let me begin my remarks by thanking the other side of the aisle and both parties for the bipartisan cooperation in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 195—legislation that will recognize Juneteenth as the day of celebrating the end of slavery in the United States and as the true day of independence for African-Americans in this country.

Juneteenth is the traditional celebration of the day on which the slaves in America were freed. Although slavery was officially abolished in 1863, news of freedom did not spread to all slaves for another 2½ years—June 19, 1865. On that day, U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger, along with a regiment of Union Army Soldiers, rode into Galveston, TX, and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free. Vowing to never forget the date, the former slaves coined a nickname for their cause of celebration—a blend of the words "June" and "Nineteenth."

House Joint Resolution 195 recognizes that the significance of Juneteenth is twofold. Historically, the date signifies the end of slavery in America. We must also recognize, however, that while the former slaves truly had cause to celebrate the events of June 19, 1865, the truth is that when the slaves of Texas received news of their freedom, they were already le-

gally free. That is because the Emancipation Proclamation became effective nearly 2½ years earlier—on January 1, 1863. Thus, from a political standpoint, Juneteenth is significant because it symbolizes how harsh and cruel the consequences can be when a breakdown in communication occurs between government and the American people. Sadly, the degrading and dehumanizing effects of slavery were unnecessarily prolonged for over 200,000 Black men, women, and children because someone failed to communicate the truth.

As Juneteenth celebrations continue to spread, so does a great appreciation of African-American history. We must revive and preserve Juneteenth not only as the end of a painful chapter in American history—but also as a reminder of the importance of preserving the lines of communication between the powerful and the powerless in our society.

Juneteenth allows us to look back on the past with an increased awareness and heightened respect for the strength of the millions of African-Americans who endured unspeakable cruelties in bondage for over 400 years. Out of respect to our ancestors, upon whose blood, sweat, and tears, this great Nation was built, Juneteenth Independence Day acknowledges that African-Americans in this country are not truly free, until the last of us are free.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important and historic legislation.

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Ms. COLLINS of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 195

Whereas "Juneteenth" celebrations have been held informally for over 130 years to commemorate the strong survival instincts of African-Americans who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottoms of slave ships during a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage";

Whereas the Civil War was fueled by the economic and social divide caused by slavery;

Whereas on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the enforcement thereof occurred only in those Confederate States under the control of the Union Army;

Whereas on January 31, 1863, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery throughout the United States and its territories;

Whereas on April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered on behalf of the Confederate States at Appomattox, the Civil War was nonetheless prolonged in the Southwest;

Whereas news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached each State at different times;

Whereas the Emancipation Proclamation was not enforced in the Southwest until June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon

Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, to present and read General Order No. 3;

Whereas former slaves in the Southwest began celebrating the end of slavery and recognized "Juneteenth Independence Day"; and

Whereas "Juneteenth" allows us to look back on the past with an increased appreciation for the strength of the men, women, and children who for generations endured unspeakable cruelties in bondage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the end of slavery in the United States should be celebrated and recognized.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3841 and House Joint Resolution 195.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: House Concurrent Resolution 145 by the yeas and nays; House Concurrent Resolution 189 by the yeas and nays; H.R. 3752 by the yeas and nays; H.R. 4011 by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 3841 by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

CONCERNING REMOVAL OF RUSSIAN FORCES FROM MOLDOVA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 145.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution, 145 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows: